

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 stand rejected by the Office Action dated October 28, 2003.

Applicants traverse the rejections.

Examiner's Interview

Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner John Cabeca and Examiner Michael Roswell for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative, John Biernacki, during the telephone interviews on March 25, 2004. During the interview, applicants' representative mentioned that the claims include manipulation of a first control to access a second control wherein the second control includes data records. Examiner Roswell remarked that the claims provisionally appear allowable over the cited references. The other remarks and amendments contained herein further summarize the interview.

Claim Rejections - § 112

Claims 4 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 4 and 16 recite a dynamic data record generator. Applicants show an example of a dynamic data record generator on Figure 1 at reference number 206 of the patent application wherein a user generates in real-time (e.g., dynamically) a data record through access of a second control. On page 6, lines 10-12, the patent application provides additional details for this example by disclosing that a "user may enter user generated data items 206, for example, by the add operation of the modify data item operation 110F." Accordingly, the relationship between the two terms is that a user

dynamically generating data items is an example of a dynamic data item generator. Also, the redundancy has been removed in the language of claim 4 that was caused by the phrase “and combinations thereof.” Applicants respectfully submit that the instant rejections should be removed and the claims pass to issuance.

Claim Rejections - § § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,703). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden et al. and Balint et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,024). Claims 5, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden et al. and Goddard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,157). Claims 8, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden et al. and Amin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,340). Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowden et al. and Torres (U.S. Patent No. 5,317,687).

The Examiner mentioned on page 4 of the office action that the term “data items” is interpreted “as being analogous to menu items such as tools, features, or selections.” Claims 1 and 12 are directed to data records being handled through controls and not directed to menu items such as tools, features, or selections. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify this distinction by reciting the term “data records.”

More specifically, claims 1 and 12 are directed to the manipulation of data records that are from a database or equivalent. As required among other things in claims 1 and

12, the second control that is accessible from a first control allows modification of at least one of the data records from the database.

In contrast, the Bowden reference does not disclose controls containing data records, but rather discloses software tools/operations appearing in menus (see the Bowden reference, col. 1, lines 21-27; col. 2, lines 40-51). Software operations are significantly different than manipulation of data records as recited in claims 1 and 12.

For example, software operations are not data records -- software operations are the agent of change to be effected upon data records, and the data records are the recipient of the change caused by software operations. Another example that further highlights these differences is provided in claim 3. Claim 3 illustrates the difference between software operations and data records by reciting that a pop-up window provides a menu of operations, wherein the operations perform actions upon a selected data record appearing within a control.

For the reasons provided above, the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

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CONCLUSION

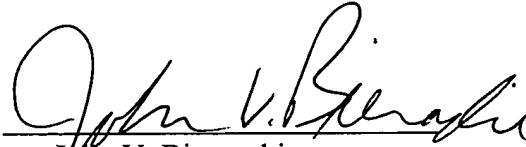
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 are allowable. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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By:



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